AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes as follows:

Figure 2 is modified to include the notation "Prior Art."

Figure 9 is modified to add "Y" and "N" references for decision blocks 904 and 906.

Figure 14 is modified to add reference arrow "1400" referring to the entire drawing.

Figure 16 is modified to add reference arrow "1600" referring to the entire drawing.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

I.   INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-67 were pending in the application at the time the Office Action was mailed. Claims 1 and 32 are amended by this response and no claims are canceled by this response. Accordingly, claims 1-67 remain pending.

II.   DRAWINGS

The Office Action objects to the drawings for numerous reasons. A response to the objections is set forth below:

(A)   The Office Action points to MPEP 608.02(q) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) as requiring lead lines. Applicants are unable to find a requirement for lead lines in these sections which relate to making amendments to drawings. Applicants believe that lead lines are unnecessary when it is clear from the drawing to which blocks or elements the reference characters correspond.

(B)   The Office Action indicates that reference numbers are necessary and points to 35 U.S.C. § 113. That statute requires applicants to "furnish a drawing where necessary for understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented." (35 U.S.C. § 113.) There is nothing in that statute requiring reference numbers. Applicants are confident that one skilled in the art would understand Figures 3, 7B, 7C, 7D, 15, 16, 17, and 18 without further additional numbers.

(C)   The Office Action indicates that labels within shaded regions are disallowed by MPEP § 608.02(p)(3). Applicants can find no such prohibition in MPEP § 608.02(p).

(D)   The Office Action indicates that two items in Figure 3 are labeled with reference numbers 302 and that they should be numbered differently. The two items represent clients that connect to server 304. Both clients contain a common set of DDOM

components, as is illustrated in Figure 3. Accordingly, they can have the same reference numbers.

(E)   The Office Action indicates that parts of Figure 4 appear to be an expanded view of parts of Figure 3 but that the relationship is unclear. Figure 4 illustrates a logical view of some components of Figure 3. The relationships can be drawn using the markings "client," "server," and "network." The Office Action points to MPEP 608(h) for guidance. Applicants are unable to locate a part (h) to MPEP § 608.

(F)   The Office Action indicates that identical items in Figures 3 and 4 should have the same reference numbers. As described above in paragraph (e), Figure 4 illustrates a logical view of some components of Figure 3. Accordingly, the same reference numbers are not required because the items are not necessarily identical.

(G)   The Office Action indicates that the relationship of items 418, 420, and 422 of Figure 4 are not illustrated to the rest of Figure 4. These items, as described in the disclosure, represent messages that flow between the client and server via the network. One skilled in the art would understand that the messages, though sent or received by the depicted logical components, are unassociated with the components in that they travel via the network and are logically unattached to the components.

(H)   The Office Action indicates that Figure 7A is an "exploded view" of item 1014 of Figure 10A. One skilled in the art would recognize that whereas Figure 7A illustrates the logical flow of a routine, item 1014 invokes the routine. No correction is required.

(I)   The Office Action indicates that Figure 8 appears to be a "partial exploded view" of item 422 of Figure 4. That is incorrect. Item 422 of Figure 4 is a message. Figure 8 is a routine. One skilled in the art would recognize that a message is not a routine.

(J)   The Office Action indicates that the decision flow illustrated in Figure 9 is incomplete.   The flow is correctly identified, and is described at paragraph 123 of applicants' specification. Figure 9 has nevertheless been amended.

(K)   The Office Action indicates that items 1014 and 1016 of Figure 10A are "condensations" of full or partial views disclosed in Figures 7A and 10B respectively. One skilled in the art would recognize that items 1014 and 1016 indicate that routines are invoked and that Figures 7A and 10B are routines. No correction is required.

(L)   The Office Action indicates that item 1068 does not appear in the disclosure. Item 1068 has been added to the disclosure.

(M)   The Office Action indicates that item 1300 does not appear in the disclosure. Item 1300 has been added to the disclosure.

(N)   The Office Action indicates that items 1407, 1409, 1411, 1412, and 1413 do not appear in the disclosure. Items 1407, 1409, 1411, 1412, and 1414 have been added to the disclosure. (Applicants assume that "1413" was a typographical error.)

(O)   The Office Action indicates that 1400 does not appear in Figure 14. This error has been corrected.

(P)   The Office Action indicates that Figures 16-18 are unclear. Applicants assert that one skilled in the art would understand these execution patterns. Should the examiner need assistance in interpreting these figures, he is urged to contact the undersigned.

(Q)   The Office Action indicates that Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 11 should be designed as Prior Art. Only Figure 2 is prior art and is now marked as such.

(R)   The following summarizes the amendments made to the drawings. Figure 2 has been labeled as Prior Art. Figure 9 has been amended to make the logic consistent

with the specification by indicating branch logic from blocks 904 and 906. Reference number 1400 has been added to Figure 14.

III.   SPECIFICATION

The Office Action indicates that the specification should be corrected. Various of the suggested corrections have been made. Applicants believe that the remaining corrections are not required.

IV.   CLAIMS

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 32 based under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Iverson, Lee, "NODAL." Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

NODAL describes a filesystem that enables addressing, searching, and linking of content from any kind of document. (NODAL, Abstract.)

Applicants' technology provides a distributed document object model ("DDOM") using which collaborative authoring of hierarchical documents is possible. Using DDOM, multiple authors may work on portions of a shared document. DDOM supports a concept of privileges that determine which operations and functions users have access to.

Although the independent claims cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over NODAL because not every limitation of every claim is taught by NODAL, applicants amend these claims to more particularly define their invention. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a component that receives an indication of a privilege for the node, the privilege indicating access rights for the node and determined based on another node, the indication including a holder of the privilege." Independent claim 32 has been amended to recite "receiving an indication of a privilege for the node and determined based on another node, the privilege indicating access rights for the node, the indication including a holder of the privilege." As an example, applicants' technology determines privileges for a node

based on privileges defined for the node's ancestors or other related nodes. By doing so, privileges do not need to be explicitly defined for each node. NODAL has no such teaching or suggestion. According to the Office Action, NODAL's "user" identity object contains content access. (Office Action, Page 12.) In NODAL, users are authenticated. (NODAL, Page 17.) However, applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion in the applied reference that privileges for a node are determined based on the user's privileges for another node.
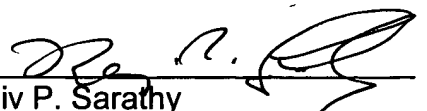
V. CONCLUSION

The independent claims each recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references and so cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Because the dependent claims import the limitations from the claims on which they depend, they also cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments